

ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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UNITED STATES.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Influenza.

NEW YORK, N. Y.—During the week ended January 11 there were 93 deaths from influenza, seven of which were attributed to that disease alone; the others being complicated with bronchitis and pneumonia.

CHICAGO, ILL.—During the week ended January 11 the prevailing diseases were lung affections.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—During the week ended January 4 there were 106 deaths from pneumonia, 57 from phthisis, and 29 from bronchitis.

BOSTON, MASS.—During the week ended January 11 influenza was reported as still prevalent.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—During the week ended January 11 influenza was the prevailing disease. There were 22 deaths from simple bronchitis or pneumonia, 9 from influenza complicated with bronchitis or pneumonia, and 4 from influenza with other complications.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—During the week ended January 11 the prevailing diseases were pneumonia, pleuritis, etc., induced by influenza, and causing 13 deaths.

YONKERS, N. Y.—During the week ended January 10 diseases of the respiratory organs prevailed.

U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
SURGEON'S OFFICE,
Portland, Me., January 14, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to report that two United States revenue steamers recently came to this port with disabled crews.

The *Woodbury* arrived on the 4th instant with eight sick men, and the *Dallas* on the 11th with nine. I visited both vessels, and found the men suffering from influenza. Necessary directions were given for the care of the patients on board ship. The cases all progressed favorably, and the vessels proceeded to sea a few days thereafter.

There appear to be no precursory signs in this disease. The victims are stricken at once with intense headache, extending into the eyes; chilliness, succeeded by slight exacerbations of temperature; hoarseness, and in some instances aphonia; anorexia; sub-acute muscular pains in limbs and back; mental condition rather sluggish; torpidity of bowels, and, later, bronchitis.

Pneumonia is liable to supervene unless proper precautionary measures are instituted; but the results obtained in the cases treated here lead to the conclusion that the enforcement of a strict regimen in the early stage is necessary, to the end that the malady which has now become so universally epidemic may be successfully treated.

Very respectfully,

HENRY W. SAWTELLE,

Surgeon, M.-H. S.

SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL, U. S. M.-H. SERVICE,

Washington, D. C.

Typhus fever.

QUARANTINE, S. I., *January 13, 1890.*

DEAR DOCTOR: The sensational statements in relation to the cases of typhus fever recently found in New York city seem to require a brief statement of the facts.

Seven cases of typhus are said to have developed in New York during the month past, six of which occurred in immigrants who arrived on the steamer before named. Sigmund Strauss was taken sick the twelfth day after his arrival; George Buhler was taken sick the fifteenth day after his arrival; Laurence Richter the thirteenth, and Max Startment the twelfth.

January 7 John Goldfarb was sent from Ward's Island to Riverside Hospital said to be suffering with the disease, but no history of the case could be obtained. Lastly, Rosa Bernstein was taken sick January 2 instant. The girl was not a passenger on the *Westernland*.

The earliest case developed was twelve days after arrival in New York and twenty-four days after leaving Antwerp. This fact leaves much room to doubt that the cases which have developed in New York contracted the contagion in Antwerp, as the time for the last possible exposure there (November 23) and the development of the disease exceeds the usual incubative period of typhus fever by several days.

It is ascertained, however, that five of the cases stopped at lodging-houses in Antwerp, and four of these stayed at the same house, the name and location of which is not remembered by the victims of the disease.

The fact that twenty-four to twenty-seven days elapsed from the last exposure at Antwerp gave rise to the suspicion that the baggage of some immigrant had been infected before sailing, most likely from Antwerp, and the contagion therefrom communicated during the voyage to those who subsequently developed the disease in New York. The explanation does not quite satisfactorily answer the query, "Why did not the passenger or passengers whose baggage was infected contract and develop the disease within its usual incubative period?"

But the burden of suspicion after the most careful investigation fell upon the Antwerp lodging-houses as to the source of the contagion. And for this reason the agents of the Antwerp line were requested to inform the authorities at Antwerp of the suspicion, and ask that all immigrant lodging-houses in that city be cleansed and disinfected. A

cable dispatch to this effect was immediately sent by the managers of the line at New York. In the meantime, and until evidence is furnished that the request of the health officer of the New York quarantine in relation to the lodging-houses in Antwerp is complied with, the disinfection of steamers from and the baggage of the immigrants that embark at that port, will be effected on arrival at quarantine, as was done in the case of the steamer that arrived the 10th instant.

Very respectfully,

WM. M. SMITH,
Health Officer, Port of New York.

J. B. HAMILTON, M. D.,
Surgeon-General, U. S. M.-H. Service.

Scurvy.

U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
SURGEON'S OFFICE,
San Francisco, Cal., January 6, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to report the admission to hospital yesterday of four seamen, viz, John McFarding, J. Carlson, Peter Huet, and Andrew Madson, off the ship *Sterling*, Captain Goodwill commanding, suffering with scurvy. They are all in a deplorable condition, having been six months en route from New York and without vegetables of any kind after being two months at sea. They state that lime-juice was not issued until scurvy appeared among them one month ago, and that after being confined to bed preserved meat was issued four times a week, and that apples dried and preserved were only issued two weeks previous to arriving at this port.

As they were sent to the hospital by the captain without master's certificates, I have reported the facts to the collector of customs, with a request that such certificates be obtained as provided under paragraphs 155-6, Regulations United States Marine-Hospital Service.

This is the third ship coming into this port from New York with scurvy on board since I have been here, and I would be glad if some action could be taken in the matter to prevent a recurrence of this shameful and unnecessary disease on board ships sailing under the "Stars and Stripes."

Very respectfully,

PRESTON H. BAILHACHE,
Surgeon, M.-H. S.
SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL, U. S. M.-H. SERVICE,
Washington, D. C.

Reports of States, and Yearly and Monthly Reports of Cities.

ALABAMA—*Mobile*.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 40,000. Total deaths, 73, including croup, 1; diphtheria, 1; and enteric fever, 2.

CALIFORNIA—*Oakland*.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 60,000. Total deaths, 72, including enteric fever, 1.

Sacramento.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 35,000. Total deaths, 33, including croup, 2; diphtheria, 1; and enteric fever, 3.

San Francisco.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 330,000. Total deaths, 482, including croup, 7; diphtheria, 11; enteric fever, 17; whooping cough, 1; and scarlatina, 1.

COLORADO—*Denver*.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 150,000. Total deaths, 163, including croup, 2; diphtheria, 9; enteric fever, 12; whooping-cough, 2; and scarlatina, 2.

ILLINOIS—*Galesburgh*.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 17,000. Total deaths, 12, including diphtheria, 1; and croup, 1.

IOWA—From the *Monthly Bulletin* for December, 1889, the following is extracted:

Since the last number of the *Bulletin*, the following contagious diseases have been reported. Diphtheria seems to be spreading, yet nowhere epidemic. Inefficient quarantine and isolation are the chief sources of trouble. Scarlet fever is abating. In some of the northern counties the so-called "it," or winter cholera, which has frequently been epidemic in Minneapolis, prevails, though in mild form.

DIPHTHERIA.—Exira, State Center, Traer, Lewis, Alta, West Burlington, Burlington, Keokuk, Beaver Township, Guthrie County, Douglass Township, Polk County, Newell, Brook Township, Clay County, Davis City, Marcus, Red Oak, Council Bluffs, Fairfield, Richland, Pleasant Plain, Stratford, Northwood, Kingsley, Elkhart Township, Polk County, Durant, Garrison, Toledo, New Hampton, Menlo, Mediapolis, Massena.

The formidable outbreaks at Traer and Creston, reported in the last *Bulletin*, were visited by Drs. Shrader and Reynolds of the State board, and vigorous measures instituted to stamp out the disease, and especially was the holding of public funerals stopped. At Creston the cause of the disease was traced to a deep open ditch running through the infected district, into which flowed all the sewage. Pools of filthy water are formed by this ditch, which was drunk by the cows.

SCARLET FEVER.—Sherman Township, Jasper County, Exira, State Center, Ottumwa, Newell, Rowley, Baldwin, Humboldt, Northwood, Logan.

Keokuk.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 16,000. Total deaths, 16, including croup, 1.

Fourteen cases of diphtheria and 1 of scarlet fever were reported during the month.

MASSACHUSETTS—*State association of local health boards*.—A convention of local boards of health, members of the State board, and executive members of various boards, including selectmen acting as boards of health, was held in Boston on the 11th instant.

The reasons given for a proposed organization were that the sanitary laws are not carried out as they should be, and much might be effected by exchange of views and concerted action. Uniformity throughout the State in the gathering of statistics is one of the objects to be gained. A committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-laws and make nominations for officers. An adjournment was taken subject to the call of this committee.

MICHIGAN.—Week ended January 4, 1890. Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, from fifty-three observers, indicate that

scarlet fever, influenza, puerperal fever, cerebro-spinal meningitis, inflammation of the brain, remittent fever, membranous croup, cholera infantum, and cholera morbus increased, and that measles, typhoid fever, whooping-cough, and dysentery decreased in area of prevalence. Influenza increased 103 per cent. over the preceding week.

Diphtheria was reported during the week, and since, at 27 places. Scarlet fever increased by 83 per cent. and was reported at 33 places. Enteric fever was reported at 18 places. Measles decreased by 64 per cent. and was reported at 4 places.

Grand Rapids.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 70,000. Total deaths, 62, including diphtheria, 12; enteric fever, 1; and measles, 2.

MINNESOTA.—From *Public Health* for December, 1889, the following is extracted :

Distribution and mortality from specified diseases in Minnesota for the month of November, 1889, reported up to December 20.

(Population 1889, estimated, cities over 2,000 inhabitants, 539,900; towns and villages, 1,047,860.)

Total number of deaths, 798, against 832 last month; 456 males, 342 females; 41.73 per cent. occurred in towns, 58.27 per cent. occurred in cities over 2,000 population. Ages, under 1 year, 26.31 per cent.; 1 to 5 years, 13.40 per cent.; 5 to 15 years, 9.89 per cent.; 15 to 30 years, 15.91 per cent.; 30 to 50 years, 12.26 per cent.; 50 to 70 years, 13.53 per cent.; over 70 years, 8.77 per cent.

Measles.—5 deaths (2 males, 3 females), in 4 localities, 4 counties. Ages, all under 5 years. An increase over last month, but the mortality from this cause is very low.

Scarlatina.—10 deaths (6 males, 4 females), in 8 localities, 8 counties; 50 per cent. occurred in cities over 2,000 inhabitants. Ages, under 5 years, 70 per cent.; between 5 and 10 years, 30 per cent. A slight increase compared with last month, and distribution twice as great, but not one-half compared with the same month last year.

Diphtheria.—73 deaths (37 males, 36 females), in 25 localities, 22 counties; 51.44 per cent. occurred in cities over 2,000 inhabitants. Ages, under 5 years, 47.3 per cent.; between 5 and 15 years, 42 per cent. Mortality less than last month, but distribution the same. Mortality and distribution much less than for corresponding month last year.

Croup.—24 deaths (11 males, 13 females), in 10 localities, 10 counties; 66 per cent. occurred in cities over 2,000 inhabitants. Ages, under 5 years, 90 per cent.; between 5 and 10 years, 10 per cent. Mortality and distribution same as last month, and the corresponding month last year.

Typhoid fever.—59 deaths (34 males, 25 females), in 24 localities, 24 counties; 71 per cent. occurred in cities over 2,000 inhabitants. Ages, under 5 years, 6.77 per cent.; 5 to 15 years, 6.77 per cent.; between 15 and 30 years, 52.54 per cent.; between 30 and 50 years, 27 per cent. Mortality and distribution less than last month, and for the same month last year.

FOREIGN.

(Reports received through the Department of State and other channels.)

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales.*—The deaths registered in 28 great towns of England and Wales during the week ended December 21 corresponded to an annual rate of 23.5 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 9,555,406. The lowest rate was recorded in Brighton, viz, 14.1, and the highest in Blackburn, viz, 33.6 a thousand. Diphtheria caused 3 deaths in Salford, 3 in Sheffield, 3 in Plymouth, 2 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 5 in Manchester, and 2 in Birmingham.

London.—One thousand eight hundred and sixteen deaths were registered during the week, including measles, 35; scarlet fever, 22; diphtheria, 27; whooping-cough, 60; enteric fever, 12; typhus, 1; and diarrhoea and dysentery, 13. The deaths from all causes corresponded to an annual rate of 21.8 a thousand. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 518 deaths. In greater London 2,241 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 20.7 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included measles, 10; scarlet fever, 4; diphtheria, 7; and whooping-cough, 19.

During the week ended January 28, the number of deaths registered corresponded to an annual rate of 21.9 a thousand. The lowest rate was recorded in Norwich, viz, 11.6, and the highest in Blackburn, viz, 31.4. The deaths from diphtheria included 6 in Manchester, 6 in Salford, 4 in Hull, 2 in Liverpool, and 2 in Plymouth.

In London 1,690 deaths were registered, including measles, 29; scarlet fever, 14; diphtheria, 26; whooping-cough, 67; typhus, 2; enteric fever, 13; diarrhoea and dysentery, 19; and diseases of the respiratory organs, 467.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate, represented by the deaths registered during the week ended December 28, in the 16 principal town districts of Ireland, was 25.4 a thousand of the population. The lowest rate was recorded in Newry, viz, 0.0, and the highest in Sligo, viz, 38.5 a thousand. In Dublin and suburbs 166 deaths were registered, including measles, 1; enteric fever, 6; whooping-cough, 3; and diarrhoea, 1.

BRAZIL—*Rio de Janeiro.*—Three hundred and twenty-four deaths were registered during the week ended December 14, 1889, including yellow fever, 11; small-pox, 18; enteric fever, 12, and typhus, 23.

BRITISH GUIANA—*Georgetown, Demerara.*—The total number of deaths reported during the month of October, 1889, the last reported,

was 183. The prevailing diseases were consumption, malarial fevers, diseases of the bowels, and catarrhs.

BAHAMAS—*Nassau, N. P.*—January 4, 1890. City is healthy. Weather dry and dusty.

CUBA—*Havana.*—During the week ended January 2, 1890, there was only one death from yellow fever.

MEXICO—*Guaymas.*—Fourteen deaths were registered during the month of December, 1889, in a population of 6,600. No particular diseases. The sanitary condition of the town was good.

WEST INDIES—*Trinidad.*—One hundred and eighty-one deaths were reported during the period from November 2 to December 14, 1889, in the city of Port of Spain. None from contagious diseases.

MODERN LEPROSY.

Opinions on the contagiousness of leprosy, collated by Dr. de Pietra Santa.

[Abstract from the *Journal d'Hygiene*, Paris, December 19, 1889. Translated for this Bureau.]

Dr. Boinet, of the Faculty of Medicine of Montpellier, in his article entitled "Medical studies. Researches, experimental, and bacteriological, made in Tonkin in 1887-'88," gives expression to the following opinions with regard to leprosy:

He does not sustain the theory of the absolute non-contagiousness of leprosy, but considers that it is rarely contagious among adults.

From his numerous observations he concludes that the disease is transmitted principally by the constant association and contact of children, during their early years of life, with persons affected with leprosy. Inoculations upon the lower animals have thus far given but negative results.

He thinks that it may be possible that the disease is transmitted by an intermediate agent of inoculation, as, for instance, the mosquito.

Mr. William Tebb draws the following conclusions from his extensive studies upon leprosy:

1. All government and medical authorities are unanimous in acknowledging that leprosy is increasing at a serious pace in the West Indies.

2. The theory of contagion, which has been brought forward to account for this extension, is not accepted by the most eminent authorities. It can, at best, explain but a very small number of cases.

3. All authorities admit that leprosy may be communicated by inoculation.

4. That the sole method of inoculation which is practiced to any great extent is that of vaccination, from arm to arm, against small-pox.

Mr. Tebb lays great stress upon the last statement, as demonstrating the cause of the transmission of leprosy.

Dr. Zambaco, of Constantinople, who has carefully studied the disease for the past nine years, states that, as far as his observations go, the disease does not seem to be contagious.

MORTALITY TABLE—FOREIGN CITIES.

Cities.	Week ended.	Estimated population.	Total deaths from all causes.	Deaths from—								
				Cholera.	Yellow fever.	Small-pox.	Typhus fever.	Enteric fever.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.
London.....	Dec. 21.....	5,642,015	2,241	.....	.....	.....	1	12	26	34	45	.....
Paris.....	Dec. 21.....	2,260,945	1,356	.....	.....	.....	.....	34	4	24	14	8
Glasgow.....	Dec. 21.....	545,678	304	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	1	4	.....	.....
Warsaw.....	Dec. 14.....	445,770	337	.....	.....	32	.....	.....	15	15	.....	.....
Calcutta.....	Nov. 23.....	433,219	274	30	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Amsterdam.....	Dec. 14.....	399,051	164	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....
Amsterdam.....	Dec. 21.....	399,051	201	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	5	.....	.....
Rotterdam.....	Dec. 21.....	197,724	102	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....
Genoa.....	Dec. 21.....	180,416	113	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
Havre.....	Dec. 21.....	112,074	66	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Catania.....	Dec. 23.....	108,000	53	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Leghorn.....	Dec. 22.....	103,287	53	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cadiz.....	Dec. 21.....	57,157	60
Vera Cruz.....	Dec. 26.....	23,800	26
La Guayra.....	Dec. 21.....	7,428	4
La Guayra.....	Dec. 28.....	7,428	1

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